

## Internet Browsers

The program that you normally use to access the Internet is called an 'Internet browser', aka a 'browser'. Common ones are Internet Explorer (packaged with every version of Windows), Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Apple Safari. They are all free and each has its band of (sometimes one eyed) users. Try several to see which suits you. Most people settle on using just one of the browsers.

Browsers are constantly changing and being updated as they vie for more users and market share, however they all have the basic items below. Refer to the screen dumps on the next page for the latest versions of the browsers:

- Toolbars (which can contain buttons, menus, or a combination of both): File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools and Help
- Function buttons such as the forward and back arrows (plus a forward/back down arrow), Stop, Refresh, Home, Live search, Favorites (aka Bookmarks), History, Mail, Print, Edit, Discuss, Research etc.
- An address bar which shows the web address of the current page.
- A method of saving and managing your own 'Favorites' or 'Bookmarks' so you can easily return to a website without having to retype it in the address bar.

**Version.** To check the version of your web browser:

- Internet Explorer: Help menu, select 'About Internet Explorer',
- Mozilla Firefox: Help menu, select 'About Firefox'
- Google Chrome: Click the 'spanner' button and then select 'About Google Chrome'

**Home Page.** The first screen you see when you start your browser program is called the Home Page. A Home Page can be any page on the Internet, or even a blank page. You can always return quickly to your Home Page. You can change your home page at any time:

- Internet Explorer: Tools menu, select 'Internet Options', then the 'General' tab
- Mozilla Firefox: Tools menu, select 'Options', then the 'General' tab.
- Google Chrome: Click the 'spanner' button, select 'Options' then the 'Basics' tab.

**Text Size.** You can make web pages easier to read by changing the text size. If you change the text size, graphics and controls will remain in their original size but the text size will change. To do in:

- Internet Explorer: Select 'View' menu, then 'Text Size'.
- Mozilla Firefox: Tools menu, select 'Options', then the 'Content' tab.
- Google Chrome: Click the 'spanner' button, select 'Options' then the 'Under the Hood' tab.

**Zoom.** You can also enlarge or reduce the view of a web page. Unlike changing font size, zoom enlarges or reduces everything on the page, including text and images. In all three browsers, simply holding down the 'Ctrl' key and rolling the mouse wheel will zoom in/out on the page. Or hold down the 'Ctrl' key and tap the '+' or '-' keys. Via the menus and toolbars the method is:

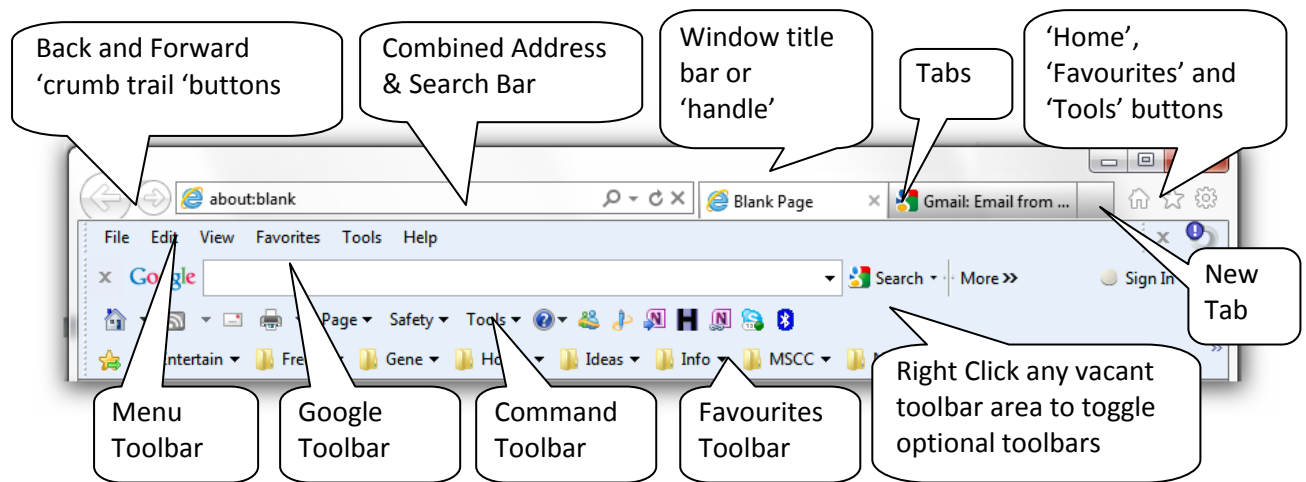
- Internet Explorer: Select 'View' menu, then 'Zoom'.
- Mozilla Firefox: Select 'View' menu, then 'Zoom'.
- Google Chrome: Click the 'spanner' button, then select 'Zoom'.

**Tabs.** Allow you to have multiple web pages open at the same time. This can be very handy when you have performed a search and want to check several of the pages listed. All three browsers use the same method and, like most of windows, there are several ways of doing it

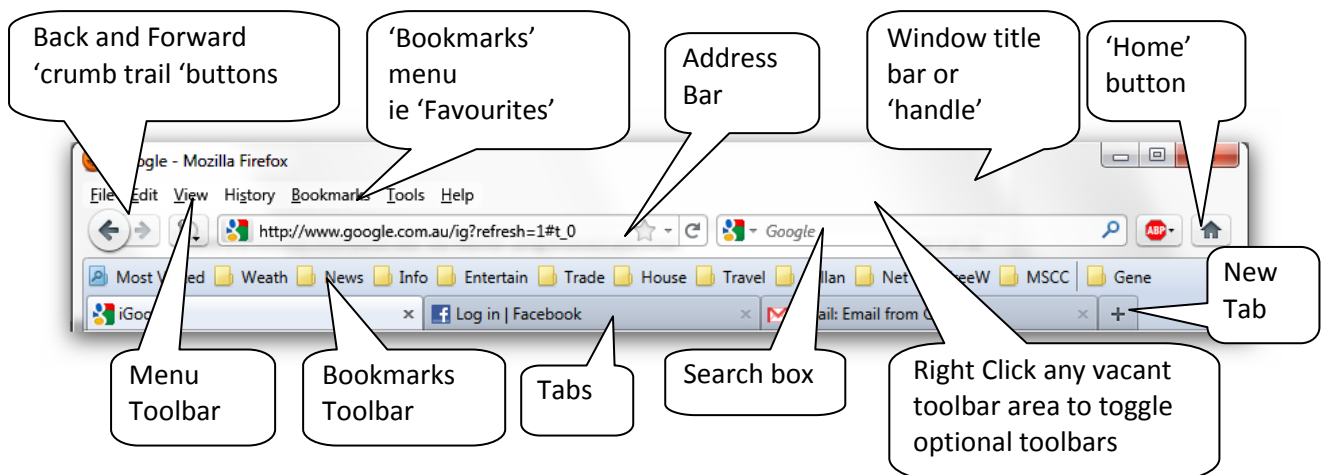
- Right Click a link and select 'Open in New Tab'
- Click a link using the wheel on the mouse (yes the wheel can be used for clicking!)
- Hold down the 'Ctrl' key and left click a link
- Click the 'New Tab' tab to open a blank page

## Screen shots of the three most popular browsers

### Internet Explorer version 9



### Mozilla Firefox version 4



### Google Chrome version 11

